

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 107861 TOSEC 040220
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA:SACORNWELL:SAC
APPROVED BY PA/M:CFREEMAN
S/S:SGOLDSMITH
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----121856Z 068755 /47
O 121828Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 107861 TOSEC 040220

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT BERNARD GWERTZMAN ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST DATED MAY 12 HEADED "U.S. AND SEOUL TO START DISCUSSION OF TROOP PULLOUT LATE THIS MONTH."

2. THE UNITED STATES WILL BEGIN FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA LATER THIS MONTH ON THE EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN GROUND FORCES FROM THAT COUNTRY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

3. THE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD INSTRUCTED GEN. GEORGE S. BROWN, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AND PHILIP C. HABIB, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, TO FLY TO SEOUL TO BEGIN TALKS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 107861 TOSEC 040220

ON MAY 24 IN FULFILLMENT OF MR. CARTER'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE 33,000 UNITED STATES ARMY TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA OVER THE NEXT FOUR TO FIVE YEARS.

4. BECAUSE OF JAPAN'S CONCERN OVER THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, GENERAL BROWN AND MR. HABIB WILL ALSO CONFER IN TOKYO WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS AFTER THE

SEOUL MEETINGS, THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

5. TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED WEEKS OF DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ABOUT ITS KOREAN POLICY. A SERIES OF MEMORANDUMS OUTLINING OPTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN PREPARED AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS HELD.

6. DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR MR. CARTER HAD ADVOCATED A GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN GROUND FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA IN CONSULTATION WITH SEOUL AND TOKYO.

7. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 9, HE SAID: "MY COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA HAS NOT CHANGED."

8. HE SAID THAT "A FOUR-TO FIVE-YEAR TIME PERIOD IS APPROPRIATE" TO CARRY THE WITHDRAWAL OUT, AND HE ADDED THAT "THE SCHEDULE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT VERY CAREFULLY WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT."

9. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THAT GENERAL BROWN AND MR. HABIB WOULD BRING POSSIBLE TIMETABLES FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OPERATION TO SEOUL TO DISCUSS WITH THE KOREANS.

10. AMERICAN TROOPS WERE FIRST STATIONED IN KOREA IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORLD WAR II, WHEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION DIVIDED THE COUNTRY, A FORMER JAPANESE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 107861 TOSEC 040220

COLONY, INTO ZONES OF OCCUPATION. THE AMERICAN FORCE WAS WITHDRAWN BEFORE THE NORTH KOREAN INVASION IN JUNE 1950. BUT LARGE NUMBERS OF UNITED STATES TROOPS WERE SENT TO KOREA DURING THE WAR THERE, AND A SIZABLE FORCE REMAINED AFTERWARD.

11. IN THE EARLY 1970'S THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WITHDREW 20,000 TROOPS, BECAUSE IT WAS FELT THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS WERE CAPABLE OF ASSUMING MORE OF THE BURDEN OF THEIR OWN DEFENSE. BUT PLANS FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWALS WERE CANCELED BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES WANTED TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH SOUTH KOREA WOULD FEEL THE NEED TO REDUCE THE FORCE THAT IT HAD SENT TO VIETNAM AND BECAUSE WASHINGTON HAD NOT FULFILLED ITS PROMISES TO MODERNIZE KOREAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

12. FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM TWO YEARS AGO, THE UNITED STATES GAVE UP ANY IDEAS OF FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS IN KOREA FOR FEAR THAT

SUCH ACTION MIGHT ENCOURAGE NORTH KOREA TO ATTACK THE SOUTH AGAIN.

13. MOREOVER, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION CLAIMED PRIVATELY THAT, IN ADDITION TO JAPAN, CHINA HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA, INDICATING THAT IT DID NOT WANT THE UNITED STATES TO REMOVE ITS LAST SIGNIFICANT FORCES FROM THE ASIAN MAINLAND. THE CHINESE, IT WAS SAID, FEARED THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY POWER VACUUM THAT DEVELOPED IN THE AREA.

14. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THE QUESTION OF SOUTH KOREA'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF WOULD INEVITABLY BE RAISED DURING THE TALKS IN SEOUL. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS ASKING CONGRESS FOR DOLLARS 250 MILLION IN MILITARY CREDITS FOR SOUTH KOREA FOR THE 1978 FISCAL YEAR AND PLANS AN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 107861 TOSEC 040220

ADDITIONAL DOLLARS 100 MILLION IN ARMS SALES. (END TEXT)
CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE107861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SACORNWELL:SAC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770168-0024
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770564/aaaacdix.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4bc7b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2545997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, MPOL, US, KS, WASHINGTON POST, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (GWERTZMAN, BERNARD)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4bc7b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009